MONDAY — Dec 8-1952 (MILW. SENTINEL)

Surprise CD Test Rates Near Perfect

More than 250 firemen and 19 amateur mobile radio units executed an "almost perfect" surprise civil defense personnel and equipment dispersal test Sunday afternoon.

Since the dispersal exercise was not announced beforehand to the public and the firemen who participated, many Milwaukeeans probably thought firemen were being called out on false alarms.

Working from the Civil Defense control center, 930 W. Madison St., Fire Chief Edward Wischer dispatched 18 truck companies and 37 engine companies with battalion chiefs to 19 locations in the city.

The source of communication between the fire units and the control center were mobile radio units from the Milwaukee Amateurs' Radio Club, traveling with the fire apparatus.

It was the first major test with the amateur radio men acting as the primary source of communication in the event of defense emergency. The police radio system previously has been the means of directing Fire Department units.

The test lasted an hour and five minutes.

Chief Wischer called the exercise "practically perfect." Speed was not the most important factor; fire trucks responded to civilian traffic rules and did not use sirens, he pointed out.

Working at the control center with Chief Wischer were Dr. George Parkinson, deputy director of civil defense administration, and James Moher, acting deputy chief of the Fire Department Training School.

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CIVIL DEFENSE UNITS IN EMERGENCY TESTS

Emergency orders to move Civil Defense equipment and personnel to another location are received by Jack G. Doyle (standing at car with mike in hand), member of the Milwaukee Amateurs' Radio Club and operator of the mobile radio unit. He and other amateur radio operators and firemen worked together Sunday afternoon in a surprise personnel and equipment dispersal test.

Sentinel photo.

A gas mask demonstration was part of Glendale's Pearl Harbor Day Civil Defense rally Sunday. In foreground, from left: Fire fighters Walter Ploederer, 5818 N. River Forest Dr., and Gilbert Sellin, 6245 Sunny Point Rd., in mask; Bernard W. Goecks, Civil Defense director, and Ernst Paul, 860 W. Brown Deer Rd. West Allis also observed Pearl Harbor Day with a program.

Sentinel photo.